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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,730	03/16/2004	Sang-Yeon Pyo	1594.1369	1852
21171	7590	08/15/2005		
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER GRAVINI, STEPHEN MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT 3749	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/800,730

Applicant(s)

PYO ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen Gravini

Art Unit

3749

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-13 and 21-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2005 0316
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 14-15, 17, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Muller (US 4,154,003). Muller is considered to disclose the claimed invention comprising:

a water tub **12**; and

a drying apparatus **10** provided on an outer surface of the water tub, the drying apparatus including:

a condensing duct **94, 94, 96** or **122** provided on a rear surface of the water tub; and

at least one air guide **100, 102** or **132, 138, 136** to partition an inner space of the condensing duct into a plurality of condensing paths which communicate with each other in series. Muller is also considered to disclose a first air guide and a second air guide which are longitudinally arranged in the condensing duct so as to partition the inner space of the condensing duct into a first condensing path as shown in figures 4 and 5, a second condensing path and a third condensing path, a condensing nozzle **132** and **150**, a blower duct **38** or **40**, and a blower fan **36** with heater **82** and discussed in column 7 line 25 through column 8 line 2 or in column 8 line 64 through column 9 line 44.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller in view of Matsumoto et al. (US 5,768,730). Muller is considered to disclose the claimed invention, as discussed above under the anticipatory rejection, except for the claimed ultrasonic atomizing unit. Matsumoto, another washing machine, is considered to disclose an ultrasonic atomizing unit at column 10 lines 1-15. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Muller with the ultrasonic atomizing unit, considered disclosed in Matsumoto for the purpose of preventing degradation of a pump so cleaning can be effectively accomplished.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller in view of Czech (US 3,274,807). Muller is considered to disclose the claimed invention, as discussed above under the anticipatory rejection, except for the claimed vapor adsorption. Czech, another washing machine, is considered to disclose vapor adsorption at column 3 lines 13-44. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Muller with vapor adsorption, considered disclosed in Czech for the purpose of purifying a cleaning agent within the washing machine by removing colorants, odors, fatty acids and the like.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed June 22, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

anticipation

Current Office practice allows claims to be broadly construed in reasonable light of the specification. Applicants argue that primary reference Muller does not anticipate the claimed invention because at least one air guide to partition an inner space of a condensing duct into a plurality of condensing paths which communicate with each other in series is not a broad and reasonable interpretation requiring separation of an inner space of a condensing duct. Examiner broadly and reasonably construes the claimed separation recitation to be fully anticipated as discussed above. Both figures 4 and 5 of primary reference Muller are considered to fully anticipate the claimed invention when compared to applicants' figure 3, included below.

Fig. 4

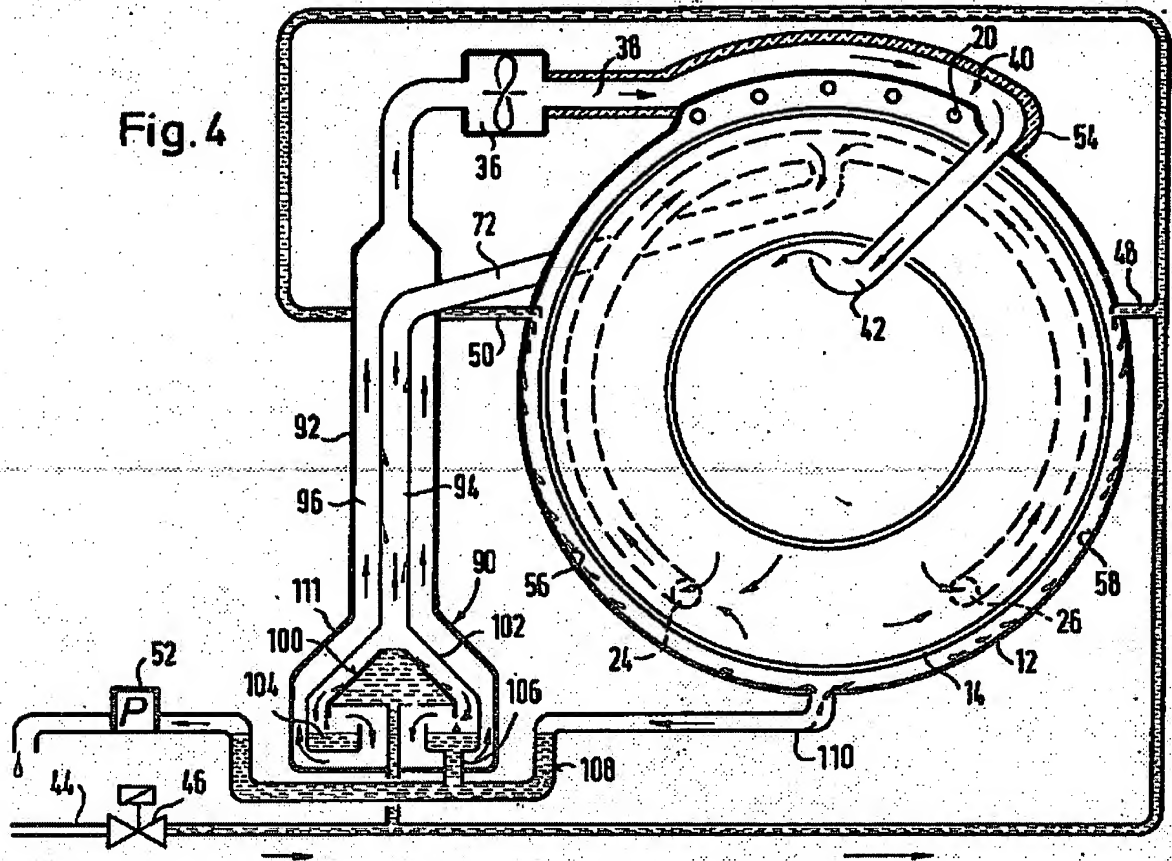
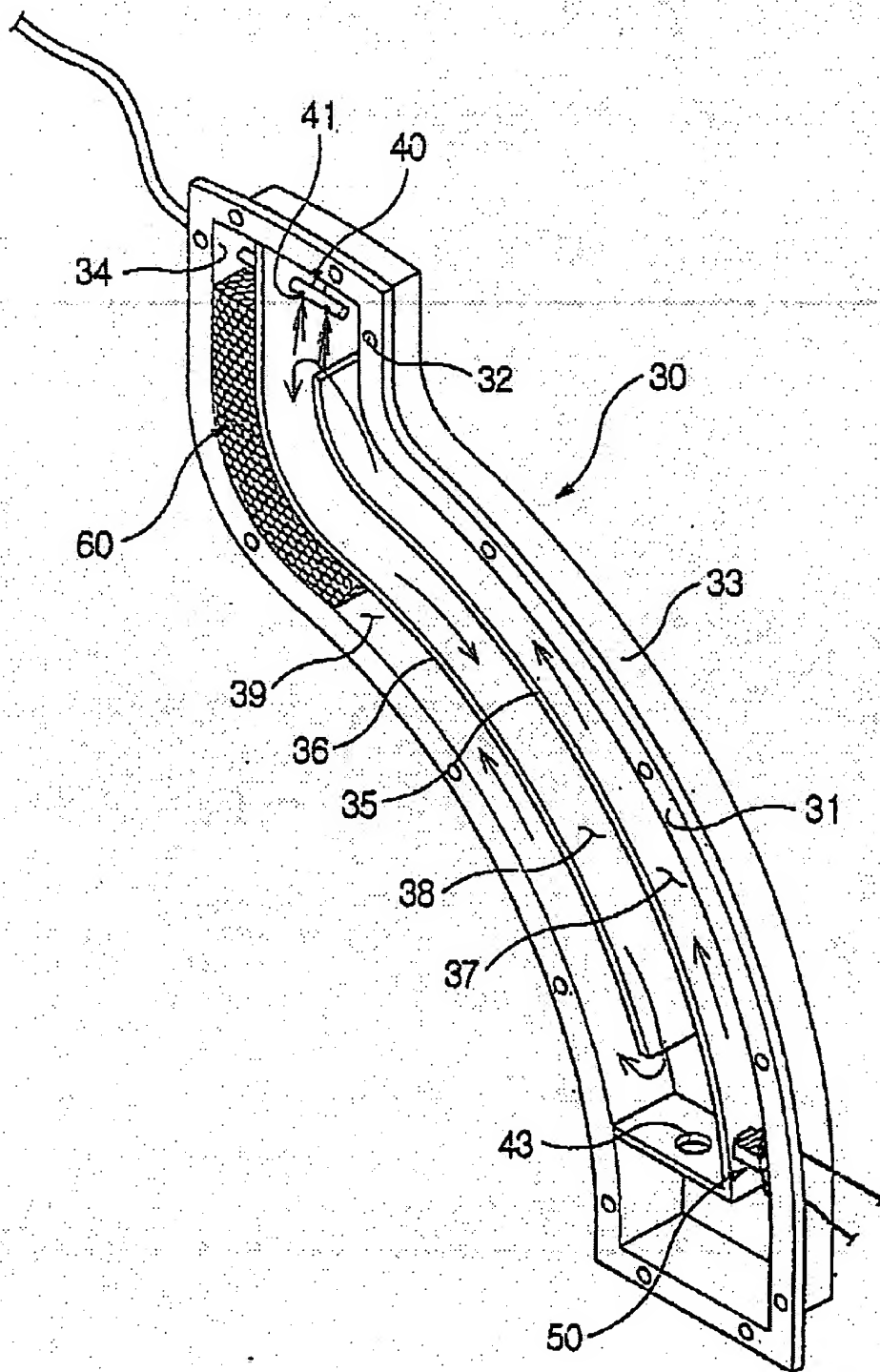


FIG 3



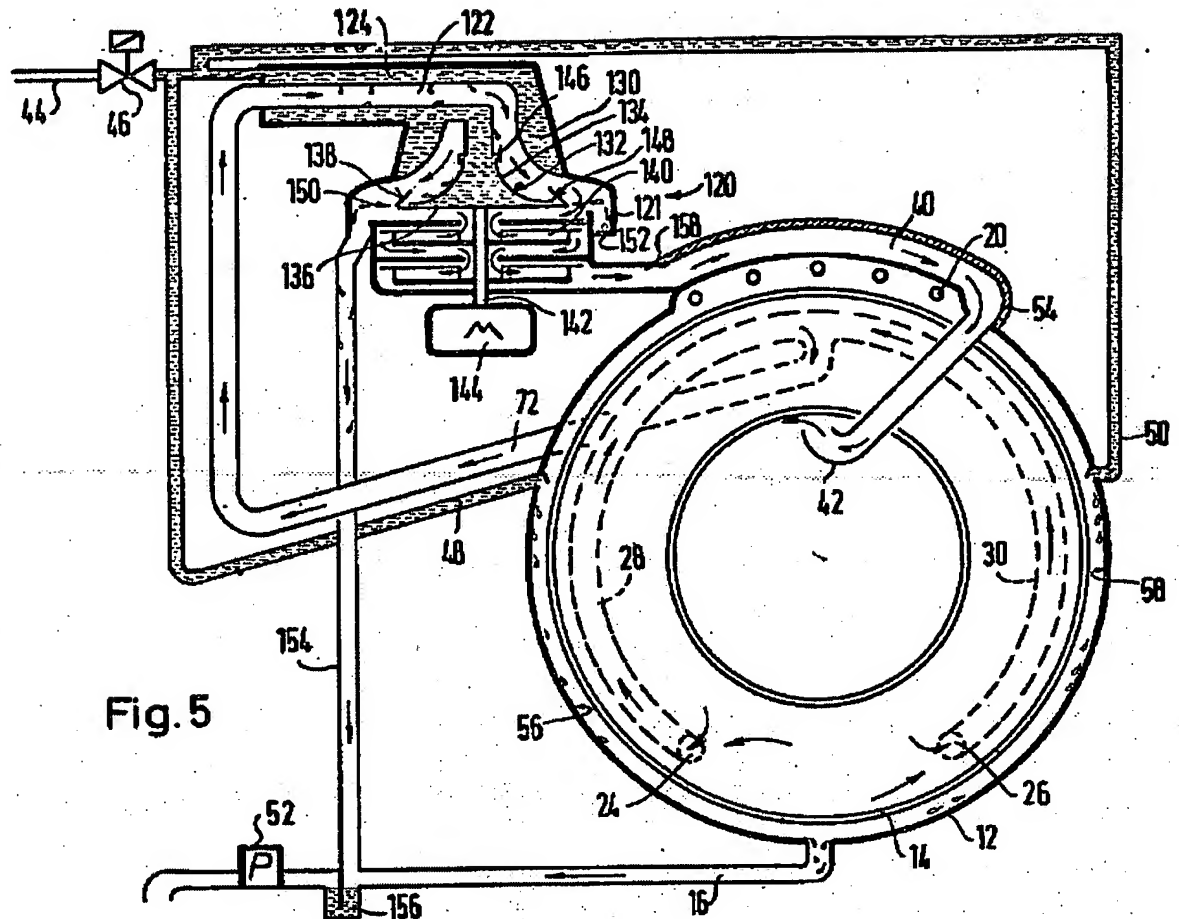


Fig. 5

In this case, it can be seen that the claimed feature including at least one air guide to partition an inner space of a condensing duct into a plurality of condensing paths which communicate with each other in series is shown in each of the two primary reference figures 4 and 5 and applicants' figure 3. The anticipatory rejection is considered proper and maintained.

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obviousness

Applicants assert that neither secondary references Matsumoto or Czech add anything to primary reference Muller to remedy the argued deficiency. Both secondary references are considered to contain features that would obviate the claimed invention as discussed in the rejections above. The rejection is considered proper and maintained.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gravini whose telephone number is 571 272 4875. The examiner can normally be reached on normal weekday business hours (east coast time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica S. Carter can be reached on 571 272 4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SMG
August 9, 2005

